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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

 9258-72
Copy 6 of 12

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13 OCT 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, CIA Reconnaissance Programs


SUBJECT: Program Progress Report

Forwarded herewith are three copies of the IDEALIST

Program Progress Report for the period 1 July 1972 -

30 September 1972.

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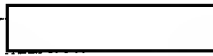

WENDELL L. BEVAN, JR.
Brigadier General, USAF
Director of Special Activities

Attachments -

As stated  6444-72)

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CLASSIFIED BY 
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF E.O. 11652, CATEGORY:
§ 5C(1), (2), (3) or (4) (circle one or more)
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Impossible to determine
(unless impossible, insert date or event)

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SAS/O/OSA: [REDACTED] (11 October 1972)

Distribution:

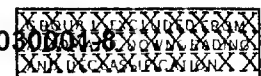
- 1 - D/CRP
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- 5 - D/SA
- 6 - SAS/O/OSA
- 7 - D/O/OSA
- 8 - IDEA/O/OSA
- 9 - INTEL/O/OSA
- 10 - D/M/OSA
- 11 - AMS/OSA
- 12 - RB/OSA

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Section 1

IDEALIST

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY AND STATUS

(1 July 1972 - 30 September 1972)

I. OPERATIONAL MISSION SUMMARY

Fourteen IDEALIST/TACKLE operational missions were alerted during this period.

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All missions were planned to be flown no closer than 25 nautical miles to the China mainland coast. Following is a summary of missions completed:

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2. Mission C212C was flown in the Taiwan Straits on 8 July 1972, utilizing the "H" configuration. Twenty-five COMIREX targets were covered, of which one was not programmed.

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5. Mission C262C was flown off the central China coast on 11 August 1972, utilizing the "H" configuration. Seventy of 72 programmed targets were covered. An additional nine bonus COMIREX and four bonus non-COMIREX targets were photographed.

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7. Mission C302C was flown along the central China coast on 3 September 1972 with the "H" configuration. Deteriorating weather prevented coverage of all but 10 targets.

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9. Mission C322C was flown in the Taiwan Straits on 12 September 1972, utilizing the "H" configuration. Deteriorating weather prevented coverage of 80 percent of programmed targets, however, one new SAM site was located and several port facilities were covered.

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10. Mission C332C was flown along the northern China coast in the Port Arthur area on 19 September 1972, utilizing the "H" configuration. Due to deteriorating weather, only 30 percent of the programmed coverage was obtained.

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25X1 II. GENERAL

25X1 A. RED DOT - Nine sorties were flown in support of continuing film tests using various film types and camera configurations in the U-2R.

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25X1 C. Lens - Eleven sorties were flown to test the new color corrected "H" lens.

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25X1 E. T-2 training accomplished for one U-2 pilot at Pensacola, Florida NAS.

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25X1 III. PILOT AND AIRCRAFT STATUS (AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 1972)

A. Detachment "G" (Edwards AFB - North Base)

Aircraft 2 U-2R

Pilots

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B. Detachment "H"

Aircraft

Pilots

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IDEALIST

DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY AND PROGRESS

(1 July 1972 - 30 September 1972)

I. AIRFRAME

A. J-75P13B Engine - Installation of improved third stage turbine blades has been accomplished on 22 engines. This modification improves engine life and permits the extension of Hot Section Inspections (HSI) from 600 to 700 hours and of Time Between Overhaul (TBO) from 1200 to 1400 hours.

B. U-2R Flight Test and Operational Training Summary

1. IDEALIST Program accomplishments in U-2R aircraft since introduction include 9521.1 hours on 2906 sorties as of 30 September 1972.

2. Flight test and operational data are depicted below:

	<u>1 JUL-30 SEP</u> <u>FLIGHTS</u>	<u>1 JUL-30 SEP</u> <u>TIME</u>
1 - 051	47	131.1
2 - 053	35	101.6
3 - 054	45	148.8
4 - 055	<u>56</u>	<u>163.3</u>
TOTAL	183	544.8

II. PAYLOAD

A. "H" Configuration - "H" Serial Number 003 incorporating the new lens was first used operationally at Detachment "H" on 8 July 1972. The second lens, installed in Serial Number 002, is currently undergoing flight testing and qualification.

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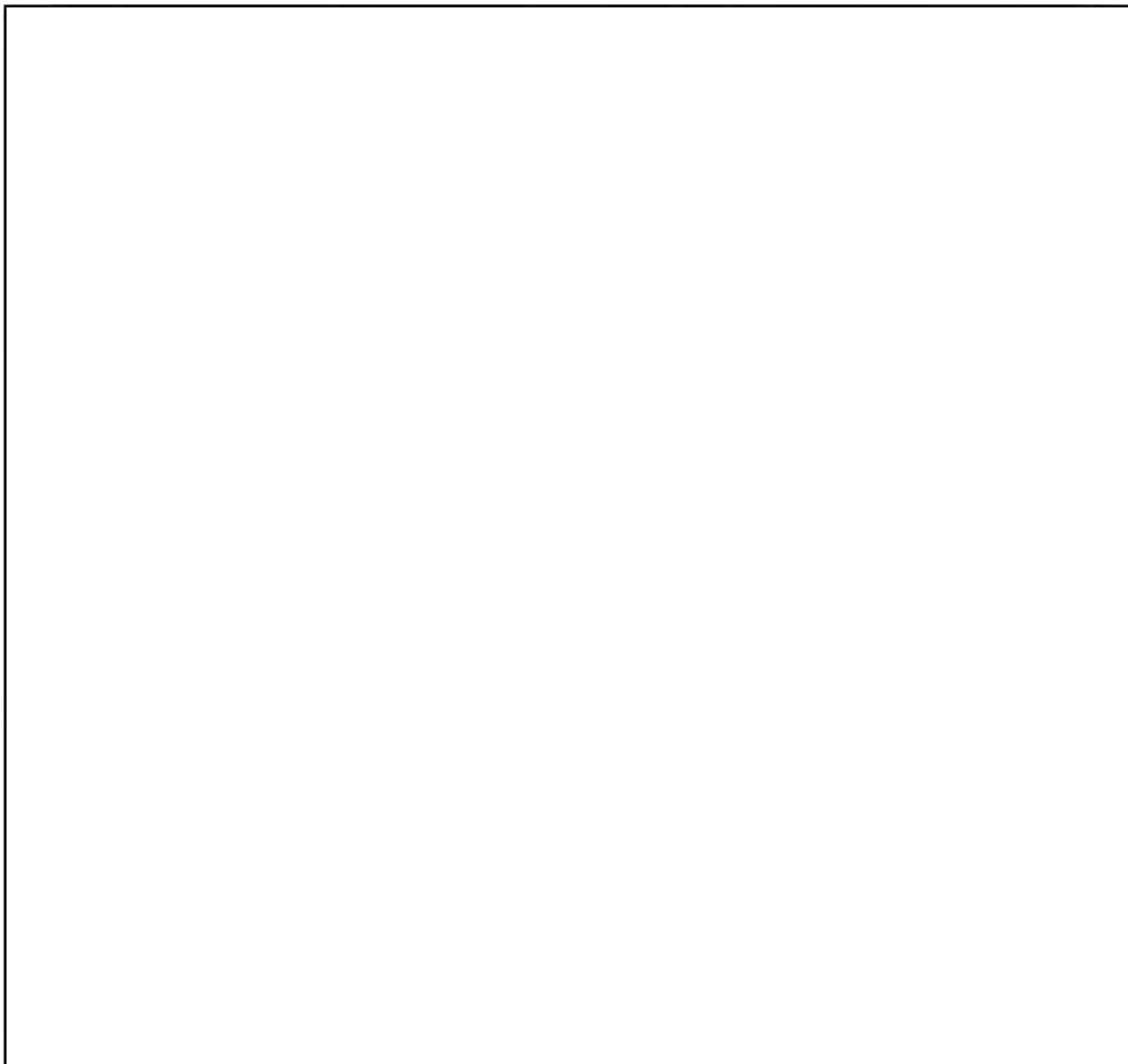
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B. "B" Configuration - Delivery of the first modified B-3 camera with a new lens will be delayed until late in the second quarter. This schedule slippage is necessary to permit rework of the lens aspherical surface to correct misalignment of the asphere axis.

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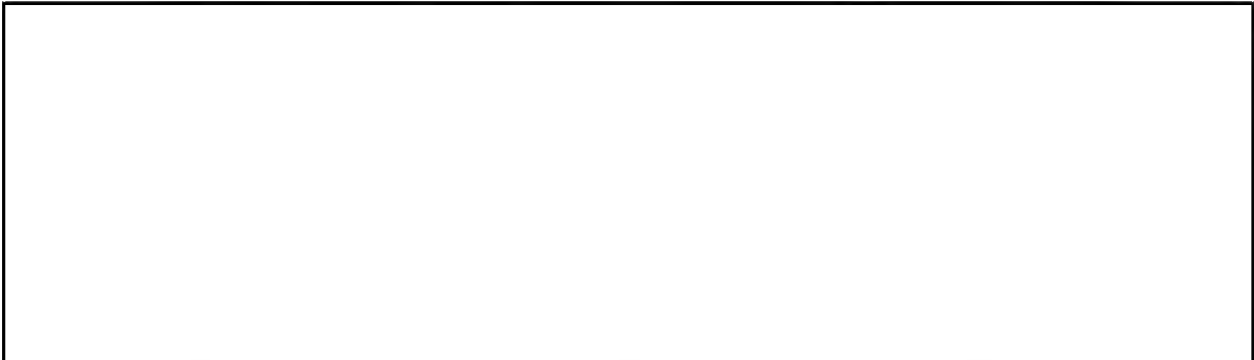
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V. AERO MEDICAL AND LIFE SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

A. Medical Activities

1. Pilot Selection Program - Five pilot candidates were interviewed and received IDEALIST Program briefings prior to receiving astronaut type physicals at the School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks AFB, Texas. All five elected to continue with the selection process, and only one was found to be not physically qualified for the project. The four candidates were brought to Washington, D. C. area where they were interviewed by flight surgeons and spent two days with psychologists from PSS/OMS. Two were unanimously chosen for training by the selection group with the recommendation that the other candidates not be held in reserve. They will begin training in March 1973.

2. Medic - A second medical technician was assigned in August 1972, enabling them to have 24 hour coverage. Both have excellent backgrounds as laboratory technicians and have proposed doing the required lab work in routine physicals currently being performed by a civilian physician. This would save the Government approximately \$50.00 per examination.

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5.	Briefing for New USAF Surgeon General -
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[redacted] briefed the new Air Force Surgeon General (Lt. Gen. Patterson) on the flight medicine aspects of the IDEALIST Program on 6 September 1972. This briefing was at the specific request of Lt. Gen. Patterson.

B.	Life Support Activities
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1. Face Heat Modification - A new portable battery pack with recharger unit has been fabricated to be used to provide full-pressure suit visor face heat when transporting pilots from the personal equipment section to the aircraft.

2. Laminated Visors - An autoclave has been purchased for use in producing a laminated visor for the full-pressure suit assembly. This device was necessary to accomplish the dry bonding technique at a rather high temperature and pressure.

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3. Vent Garment - A new vent garment has been fabricated and sent to Detachment "G" for use with the low-flight harness. This unit will assist in cooling the pilot during low-flight and will mate successfully with the aircraft pressure suit vent connections.

4. Glove Bladder - The David Clark Pressure Suit Company has been experimenting the past few months with reinforcing the glove bladders with a sheer nylon mesh. To date some of the seams of these gloves have been failing after repeated inflations. A new dipping procedure is now under evaluation and recently finished products look promising. Further investigation and experimentation will be accomplished on the Sustaining Engineering Contract during the next quarter.

5. Prototype Helmet - The new S1010 helmet modification was presented to the U-2R pilots during the last week of September. All agree it is a decided improvement over the present helmet and two flyable configurations are now being fabricated.

6. Survival Weapon - The Director for OSA has given final approval for the purchase of 25 new single shot 22-caliber survival weapons to be packed into the survival seat kit. This is a much improved survival weapon which, additionally, can be packed into a very small space.

C. Training

1. Life Support Conference - The semiannual Life Support Conference was held in Washington, D.C. on 2 August 1972. Lt. Col. Don Johnson of the AF Surgeon General's Office chaired the meeting attended by Col. B. L. Bailey of the NRO and [redacted] of OSA. This conference is held primarily for the cross fertilization of information from special projects utilizing pressure suits.

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